

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the non-final Office Action issued July 25, 2003, allowable subject matter was found in claims 6, 10-12 and 15. The Examiner stated specifically that the prior art did not teach detecting the oscillation amplitude of an oscillating object for measuring and controlling ultrasonic waves.

Accordingly, a relevant portion of the subject matter of claim 10 has been placed in the main apparatus claim 1, and a portion of the subject matter of claim 15 has been placed in the main method claim 13. Thus, claim 1 now recites "wherein said oscillating object is an ultrasonic transducer," and likewise, claim 13 recites "said oscillating object being an ultrasonic transducer." In view of these amendments, and based on the Examiner's statement of allowable subject matter, allowance of independent claims 1 and 13 is requested.

Other claim amendments that are not necessary for patentability but merely improve the form of the claims have also been made. Claims 6-9, 12 and 22-24 have been amended to improve their antecedent support in previous claims. New claims 25 and 26 which depend from claim 1 are similar to original claims 10 and 11. New claims 27 and 28 which depend from claim 13 are similar to original claims 10 and 6, respectively.

Thus, independent claims 1 and 13 have been amended to include portions of the allowable subject matter from claims 10 and 15. At least for this reason, all of the claims are in condition for allowance. The other amendments herein are merely matters of form and not required for patentability.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of claims of 1-28 is requested.

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October 23, 2003

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